

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 227335
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:MDRAPER:CF
APPROVED BY NEA:MDRAPER
IO - MR LEVITSKY
P - MR NEWSOM (SUBS)
S/S-O - JTHYDEN

-----007287 080124Z /75

P 080018Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227335

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REF: JERUSALEM 2461

1. WE HOPE THE ADVANTAGES OF A LEBANESE GOVERNMENT POLITICAL PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON HAS NOT BEEN LOST SIGHT OF. ADDRESSSEES WILL RECALL THAT THE THRUST OF OUR POLICY POSITION HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN TO EXTEND THE GOL'S MILITARY AND CIVIL AUTHORITY INTO THE AREA. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE, IN ADDITION TO LEBANESE ARMY UNITS, POLICE, JUDGES, OFFICIAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS, ETC. BEIRUT MAY WISH TO COMMENT WHETHER
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PAGE 02 STATE 227335

THERE WOULD BE ANY UTILITY IN ENCOURAGING THE LEBANESE TO TRY FOR A POLITICAL PRESENCE IN ADVANCE OF THE INTRODUCTION OF LEBANESE ARMY UNITS. THE EXPERIENCE WITH THE GENDARMES DOES NOT GIVE GROUNDS FOR HIGH OPTIMISM, HOWEVER.

2. WE RATHER LIKE THE IDEA IN REFTTEL OF HAVING THE GOL ASSIGN SMALL UNITS TO EACH OF THE EIGHT U.N. NATIONAL CON-

TINGENTS,SPREADING THE GOL'S MILITARY PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE AREA. BEFORE WE COMMENCE RENEWED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE LEBANESE ON ANY KIND OF ARMY MOVE SOUTH, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE WE NEED AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ALL ADDRESSEE POSTS, WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LATEST

DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING UNIFIL'S DIFFICULTIES IN SECURING AN ADEQUATE ISRAELI UNDERSTANDING REGARDING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE EMBASSY BEIRUT TO COMMENT PARTICULARLY ON THE CONCEPT OF HAVING THE GOL HIRE LARGE TRANSPORT OR CARGO HELICOPTERS FROM EUROPEAN FIRMS, FOR EXAMPLE. THE LEBANESE APPARENTLY DO NOT HAVE THE C;PACITY IN THEIR OWN HELICOPTER FLEET TO LIFT MAJOR VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT. THE GOL PROBABLY COULD FIND THE MONEY FOR SUCH AN OPERATION ALSO. A HELICOPTER ARRANGEMENT BRINGING VEHICLES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS MEN--PERHAPS FLYING OUT AT SEA--COULD AVOID THE PROBLEMS OF PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE LEFTIST MILITARY INTERFERENCE ALONG THE CENTRAL ROUTE WHICH THE ISRAELIS HAVE PROPOSED THE ARMY USE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE227335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:CF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780365-0418
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780987/aaaacujv.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 94321054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 JERUSALEM 2461
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1501794
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, IS, LE, XF, UNSC
To: BEIRUT DAMASCUS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/94321054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014